

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully traverses the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claim 1 over Munz (DE 199 384 52), in view of Komatsubara (U.S. Patent 6,136,456).

Initially, this combination of references does not suggest all of the elements recited in claim 1. Among other things, claim 1 recites a height of roughness of 0.01 to 0.06 mm. Komatsubara, in contrast, discloses a height of roughness of 0.1 mm, which is outside the claimed range.

Moreover, as recited in amended claim 1, a press molding die comprises a punch which moves in a first direction, pressing a workpiece. A molding die has a molding surface on which the workpiece is placed and a concave portion formed on the molding surface having a shape corresponding to the punch. The punch moves into the concave portion to deform the workpiece into a shape corresponding to the concave portion. A pad presses a portion that is a part of the workpiece placed on the molding surface that is on a periphery of the concave portion. A micro-rough layer is provided on at least one of the molding surfaces or the pad. The micro-rough layer has a particle diameter of 10 to 30 μm , a thickness of 10 to 40 μm , a hardness of 1000 to 1100 Hv, a surface roughness of 10 to 30 μmRy , and an average height of roughness of 0.01 to 0.06 mm, and convex portions. In addition, the micro-rough layer is configured so that the workpiece contacts only at the convex portions, causing deformation of the workpiece in a second direction which is generally perpendicular to the first direction, thereby substantially preventing displacement of the workpiece.

Neither Munz nor Komatsubara discloses these features of claim 1, and therefore do not substantially prevent displacement of the workpiece.

Applicant further traverses the § 103(a) rejection of claims 3-5 over Munz in view of Komatsubara, and further in view of Uchiyama (EP 58123896), Kazuo (EP 54071048) and Iwaya (U.S. 6,807,838). None of the secondary references provide the teachings missing from Munz and Komatsubara, discussed above.


In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and allowance of the pending claims 1 and 3-5.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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